

Regional Advisory Committee Meeting Friday, 6/29, 2007 Wrap-Up

Emergency Preparedness: Summing-up comments included Cathy Burroughs' mentioning that Mary Ryan's involvement in the NN/LM Emergency Preparedness Project provides an important link to MLA, since Mary is the incoming president of the association (for 2008-2009). Susie McIntyre and Tom Page emphasized the importance of the mental health component of emergency preparedness—it is very important to take care of oneself and one's staff; if you're not taking care of yourself you can't help anyone else. Dolores Judkins mused that the backup library idea might be a good PNC/MLA project.

Gary Menges: Gary Menges is the Preservation Administrator and Library Collections Security Officer for the University of Washington Libraries. He commented that the meeting location at the Center for Urban Horticulture is an appropriate one since CUH was a victim of an arson fire. He used his experience with that event to review aspects of preparedness for people, collections, and operations, reminding us that a plan is only a guideline. Relationships are key. After the CUH fire the first thing he did was to meet the incident commander, then the head of CUH, then the building coordinator, and then the facilities person from UW.

Every situation is different, every place is different, and every disaster is different. A plan may cover how to keep things organized but it's crucial to expect the unexpected. He encouraged the group to become involved with CERT as a way to develop relationships with first responders. The "C" in CERT originally stood for Community; in academia it has come to stand for Campus; and in the library and museum world it has recently been used for Collections. The American Conservation Association, which has funded historic preservation, is now interested in emergency response.

The Western U.S. does not have a regional conservation center, but the Western States and Territories Preservation Advisory Service provides assistance, referral, training, and an 800 number. Workshops will be held in all states in the Western U.S. and the Pacific Islands, except in Arizona and New Mexico (they are part of AMIGOS). These are two-day workshops. After an initial day in training, participants will go to work on their disaster plans. The second day of the workshops will follow up on this work. These workshops will begin this fall and continue through 2008. They are subsidized by NEH and will be free to participants. They are coordinating with state libraries to identify locations for these workshops, and will make announcements to the Pacific Northwest Collection Preservation email list at preservenw@u.washington.edu. The workshops will also be listed at the UW Libraries Preservation's Cooperative Preservation web page at <http://www.lib.washington.edu/preservation/cooppreservation.html>. Other suggestions for publicity included the state library email lists, HLIB-NW, and the Dragonfly. A suggestion was voiced that the RML could provide funding for network member libraries to attend these workshops.